



## MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

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### Testimony on HB 4360

#### House Committee on Transportation Michigan House of Representatives

Wednesday, May 4, 2011  
Room 307, House Office Building  
Lansing, Michigan

Nathan Rowen  
Member  
MAPT Legislative Committee

Good morning. Thank you Chairman Opsommer and the entire House Committee on Transportation for allowing us the opportunity to testify today before this distinguished committee regarding **HB 4360** (2011). On behalf of the Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation, we would also like to thank the sponsor of the bill, Representative Haines, for addressing an issue for persons wishing to pursue a job of becoming a Michigan school bus driver.

My name is Nathan Rowen. I currently serve as the director of transportation and distribution services at Lansing School District. I have been a licensed school bus driver in Michigan for 29 years and am an insulin dependent diabetic. The testimony I am providing for you today is on behalf of the Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation (MAPT) where I currently serve as a member of the association's Legislative Committee.

MAPT represents over 800 pupil transportation officials from 826 public, private and contract school bus fleets throughout Michigan. These administrators oversee the effective, efficient and safe transportation of approximately 860,000<sup>1</sup> children to and from school, every school day, on approximately 15,000 school buses driven by some 15,000 Michigan school bus drivers who cover over 1,000,000 miles [*the equivalent of 40 trips around the world*] every school day throughout Upper and Lower Michigan in accomplishing this task.

My purpose today is to present **MAPT's support for HB 4360 as introduced**. MAPT worked with the bill's sponsor in the last legislative session which resulted in the enactment of PA 93 of 2010. Michigan school bus drivers have a grandparenting provision that is already law. HB 4360 provides an avenue to allow the pupil transportation industry in Michigan to widen job opportunities to job seeking individuals with diabetes who are under tight control and who seek to be considered as a candidate for training to become one of Michigan's 15,000 school bus drivers.

School bus drivers typically are on duty from 1-3 hours per shift. This is a reasonable amount of time for an employee with diabetes to be able to check and maintain proper glucose levels. HB 4360 makes a complimentary amendment to the Motor Carrier Safety Act to allow waivers by the Michigan State Police and the Motor Carrier Safety Appeal Board for certain physical or medical qualification requirements.

Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to address any questions you or your fellow committee members may have.

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<sup>1</sup> 2007-08 SE-4094 Pupil Transportation Expense Report, Michigan Department of Education, Fall 2008